

A CHURCH DEDICATED AT HAGERSTOWN.

HAGERSTOWN, MD., May 16th, 1894.

DEAR EVANGELIST:—For a number of years, dating as far back as '84, during Brother John Duke McFadden's pastorate here, the idea of organizing a congregation, and building a church in this city prevailed, but owing to our membership being small until the latter part of last Summer it was deemed inexpedient to organize, and much less to try to build.

During these years members of the congregations near by began moving into the city, and it became apparent that some thing must be done to provide a church home for them. Therefore, the brethren called a meeting in July, 1893, when it was decided to hold a series of meetings during the month of September and also to write some of the ministering brethren asking their services. Brother John Crawford Mackey kindly consented to come with us for the stated time. We procured the hall of the Western Enterprise Fireman, W. Franklin St., and began work, on Sept. 3rd, holding services every evening for three weeks, during this period, the interest was worked up wonderfully, and in the mean time the subject of forming a church was again agitated and before Bro. Mackey left us, we had organized under the name of First Brethren church of Hagerstown, Md. Soon after Bro. Mackey had taken his leave from us, we decided to purchase a lot and build a church, and as soon as we had reached that decision, we gave Bro. Mackey a call, which was on Nov. 8th. This he accepted on Nov. 21st. When we were assured of his acceptance we proceeded to select a site, and once found, we lost little time in securing it. It is beautifully located on corner of Antietam and Mulberry Streets in a part of the city that is building up rapidly.

The architect was put to work at once and to-day we have one of the prettiest little churches in the state. All this was the work of less than nine months. Although the erection of the building was not pushed as rapidly as it would have been had the weather been favorable, yet it was built in about four months ready for dedication. It is built of wood, several styles of architecture being employed, but the Gothic prevails. The building is 33 feet wide, 60 feet long, with a 22 feet ceiling. A square rising 42 feet stands over the entrance.

The church is lighted by four large windows of cathedral glass on either side, and a triple window in the end by the tower. It is painted in light color with dark trimmings. The interior is finished in yellow pine, natural color, the ceiling is nicely arranged in large panels, the pews are of pine, natural color. The pulpit is furnished with two large chairs, stand and book rest. There is placed immediately in front of the pulpit,

a chancel table and two chairs; in the alcove of the pulpit here is painted a beautiful cross and crown with the following inscription beneath, "I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord."

The seating capacity is about 320. Under the pulpit is arranged a baptistry, and on either side is a retiring room. There is a large basement to be used during communion services. The building is heated by hot air, when finished. We dedicated it on May 13th to the service of "Almighty God."

The morning dawned bright and beautiful and by 10:30 o'clock, the hour appointed for services, the house was filled to its utmost capacity. We had all day services. At 10:30 J. C. Mackey, the pastor, preached the dedicatory sermon from Isaiah lxii, 1. "For Zion's sake I will not hold my peace and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth." Rev. Joshua Long opened the services with prayer and Bishop Andrew Cost made the dedicatory prayer. The musical part of the program was under the direction of Prof. Hall, lately of Harrisonburg, Va., now of Kee Mar College of this city. There was a platform meeting held at 3 o'clock at which time Bro. Mackey stated reasons why we claim existence and explained briefly the doctrine of the church, which was followed with remarks by Rev. P. A. Cave of the Christian church and Rev. A. M. Evers of the United Brethren church. The services were concluded in the evening by a sermon by J. C. Mackey, the pastor. The collection amounted to \$550.00. The debt has been provided for with the exception of about \$500.00. The services will be continued every evening during the week and the prospects for our work in the future are very encouraging and by help of God we hope soon to build quite a congregation here.

Fraternally yours,
THEO. W. FAHRNEY.

Enclosed a clipping of one of our city papers.

FROM THE "DAILY HERALD."

Hagerstown will soon deserve to be called the City of Churches. Each year sees at least one fine edifice built by her generous christian citizens and dedicated to the worship of the creator. Yesterday morning the First Brethren church recently built on the corner of Antietam and Mulberry Streets was consecrated to the service of God with impressive ceremonies in the presence of a goodly number.

The structure is frame with a high stone foundation and contains a basement kitchen in which the semi-annual lovefeast suppers will be prepared. The main auditorium is quite cheerful and cosy, trimmed in natural yellow pine and devoid of any special ornamentation.

Numerous stained glass windows contrast with the brown walls and the general effect of the interior is most pleasing. An unpretentious tower rises from the northwest corner and entrance is made through a small vestibule at the tower base.

The ladies of the congregation bought and paid for the furnishings, including a pretty red carpet which covers the entire floor and platform, a fine walnut pulpit, beautiful gilded chandeliers, etc. The rear wall of the pulpit recess contains this representation and inscription;

"I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord."

Rev. John Crawford Mackey, who has been called to the pastorate of the new church, preached the sermon. Rev. Joshua Long, of Downsville, made the opening prayer, and Bishop Andrew Cost, of Mapleville, the solemn dedicatory prayer. These reverend gentlemen occupied seats on the platform with the pastor.

The music was of a high order and special for the occasion. It was under the direction of Prof. Ruebush, of Kee Mar College, and several of the students assisted the choir, beside rendering a selection of their own. Miss Grace Poffenberger was organist, and Miss Lillie Hockman sang a beautiful solo. Bright hued flowers adorned the table and stand and a sweet perfume pervaded the room. Frank Fahrney and Harry Bentz acted as ushers and many folding chairs were required to seat the large audience.

Rev. Mackey spoke from Isaiah lxii, 1st verse, "For Zion's Sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth." He said the plain and distinct imitations with reference to the coming of Christ given by Isaiah had won for him the appellation of the "Evangelical Prophet." He could see through the vista of years and recorded his prophecy so clearly that to us it seemed to be the language of an eye witness rather than a seer. In the 53rd chapter of this book there is found such a detailed, minute description of his coming and he contemplated the delightful prospect of Christ's advent and the church and saw it all with his prophetic eye.

He then proceeded to specify some of the reasons why the children of God love the church and discussed some of the obstacles they would have to remove.

The attachment is due first to the fact that the church is our spiritual birthplace, and there is a wonderful charm about the place of our nativity. No other land can be compared to it, however inhospitable or rugged it may appear to others. The fact that there we first saw the light of day and that it is our own, our native land, endears the place to us; for

"Breaths there a man with soul so dead,

Who never to himself hath said:

This is my own, my native land,"

We receive great advantages by this birth into the church for we are brought into close contact with the people of God. Thus being born in the church we are bound to it. While we particularly love our department of the church let us always remember we are the children of God and citizens of Zion, yet our sympathies and affections should flow out freely to all the children of God wherever found.

In the church of God are dispensed to the ordinances of God. We receive an authoritative pledge of freedom from sin. In the supper we sit down at the banquet table of the Lord. At times when you were at a loss to know the pathway of duty, you have heard the still small voice of the Master saying, "this is the way, walk here."

The eloquent divine then gave his attention to some of the obstacles to be overcome. He declared the low standard of piety in the church to-day was one barrier. The people of God are required to be a witnessing people. They make a profession and should exemplify it in their lives that they may truly be the light of the world as the Savior has designated them. Those about us rarely read our doctrine but they do read our conduct. Let us be living epistles, known and read by all men. There is so much selfishness in the world. Business absorbs time to the exclusion of spiritual things, and our religion is frequently of that doubtful indefinite sort which makes no impression. The divisions in the church are barriers to progress and it is satan's policy to divide. We must not sacrifice truth nor abandon principle to advance the cause of Christian unity. He urged forbearance and said it a necessity.

At the conclusion of the sermon a congratulatory letter was read from Rev. J. D. McFaden, a former pastor of the Brethren church at Funks-town.

PROVIDED FOR THE DEBT.

The pastor then appointed Joseph S. Emmert and John C. Bentz to solicit contributions to lift the church debt. Theodore Fahrney served as secretary and the following pledged \$25 each; H. A. Poffenberger, B. P. Schindel, Henry F. Emmert, Mrs. Jos. S. Emmert, Mrs. Jane Welsh, Mrs. A. S. Bonebrake, Rev. C. L. Keedy, Miss Alice Schindel, Samuel Emmert and Joseph S. Emmert.

Fifteen dollar subscriptions were asked and Jacob Emmert, Dr. Welty Fahrney and Miss Fannie Schindel, each promised that amount.

Requests for ten dollars met the following responses: John T. Whitmer, Benj. Fahrney, Mrs. Benj. Emmert, James W. Startzman, William E. Schindel and Miss Ella Cross. Donations of five dollars were then made as follows: Dr. D. B. Rowland, Lawson P. Grossnickle, Harry Emmert, Clarence Emmert, J. B. Thurston, cash, Mrs. Isaiah Seeley, Wm. Barkdoll, C. S. Lane, W. P. Lane, J. C. Harper, E. B. Emmert, Wm. Updegraff, M. C. Bovey, Victor Bentz, John